



Memorandum

Date October 17, 1983

From Chief, Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, DTP, DCT, NCI

Subject Collection of AIDS Patient Material in Geneva, Switzerland

To Associate Director, National Cancer Institute

In August Professor Cruchaud stopped by my office to bring to my attention two interesting AIDS cases he had in Geneva. They were a husband and wife from Zaire who had moved to Switzerland in search of employment and subsequently developed AIDS. My laboratory is actively studying the relationship of the human T-cell leukemia virus (HTLV) to AIDS and the search seems to be leading us to Africa. Zaire, in particular of the African nations, seems to be a focus for AIDS. If the patients would not agree to be flown to NIH for treatment, I requested materials from them consisting of whole heparinized blood, a bone marrow sample and a lymph node biopsy.

Recently, I received a letter from Dr. Cruchaud (attached) explaining that in early September the patients were not as willing to donate materials as he had hoped. This situation has changed and I hope we can now receive the patient samples. A member of my laboratory, Dr. Mika Popovic is traveling to Switzerland on personal business. I have asked him to go to Geneva and meet with Dr. Cruchaud, collect the materials and set up primary cultures of the cells there. We are fortunate to have our resident expert traveling to Switzerland at this time. I would like to request travel funds to cover his expenses between Basel and Geneva. This material is very important and we have not had success shipping fresh cells any other way.

Thank you.

Robert C. Gallo, M.D.

cc: Ghase
Popovic travel